

Down to Earth Newsletter

Message from the Director

Dear Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and Everyone:

As we are all aware about the Coronavirus known as COVID-19 continues to spread globally and throughout the United States. As the impact of the novel corona virus unfolds, we are facing with the impact that the virus has on all of us. First, of all we hope that you and your families are safe and secure. We recognize that the global crisis has impacted uncertainty and insecurity for everyone. Here in Kickapoo Tribe Kansas we have benefited from our location and isolation from other neighboring Tribes and communities in a relatively thinly populated part of the State on Kansas.

However, we are still taking all of the necessary precautions and following the regulations instituted by our State and Federal Government. People are not eating together in the dining hall, no gatherings for more than ten people permitted and visitors are not permitted. We thank you for your thoughtful partnership, support, cooperation and within compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health preventions, protocols and precautions. At this time of pandemic outbreaks and concerns, we wish you and your families stay healthy and safe.

We wish everyone's good health, hope, courage, patience, and strength during this difficult time.

Nestoria Wright



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Earth Day Celebration

Nestoria Wright



The History and Importance of Celebrating EARTH DAY!!!

Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

The first Earth Day in 1970 launched a wave of action, including the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Spe-

cies Acts were created in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many countries soon adopted similar laws. Earth Day continues to hold major international significance: In 2016, the United Nations chose Earth Day as the day when the historic Paris Agreement on climate change was signed into force. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

Since its inception in 1970, Earth Day continues to grow as a worldwide phenomenon focused on promoting clean living and a healthy, sustainable habitat for people and wildlife alike. Celebrating Earth Day serves as a conscious reminder of how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect.

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge but also the vast opportunities of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Remember the World needs you, and your actions for Earth Day April 22, 2020

Chance Bentley



Introduction to our New Employee

Meet our New Air Quality Coordinator

New Air Quality Coordinator We'd like to introduce the new Air Quality Coordinator Chance Bentley. Chance is an environmental specialist with a background working with climate modeling to develop adaptation strategies in agro-ecological settings. Chance's works have been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals including Catena and the Journal of Hydrology. Chance completed his M.S. in Plant Science coursework from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (2018) and dual majored in Biology and Natural Resources and Environmental Studies for his B.S. at Kansas State University (2015). He is looking forward to assisting the Kickapoo tribe in maintaining healthy air conditions in both indoor air and ambient air settings.



Indoor Air Quality During the COVID-19 Pandemic

By: Chance Bentley

The COVID-19 crisis has sent much of the world into a status of lock-down with the closing of most schools and workplaces, social distancing guidelines, and stay at home orders. According to the EPA, on average people spend roughly 90% of their lives indoors (EPA, 2018). Amid these precautions, people are spending more time indoors to limit the exposure and spread of the novel Coronavirus. Indoor air quality is essential now more than ever as people are spending more and more time indoors. Improving the quality of your home's indoor air, which can be full of pollutants (pollutant levels can be 100 greater indoors compared to outside), emissions and germs is beneficial for many reasons and important, pandemic or no pandemic. But it's perhaps even more critical to clear the air during the COVID-19 crisis.

Indoor Air Practices. While you are likely disinfecting surfaces regularly, you might be forgetting to clean a critical part of your home: the air. When cleaning and disinfecting, your homes indoor may accumulate harmful Volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These VOCs have linked to health issues such as allergies and asthma (Huffington Post, 2020). Be sure to open your doors (inside and outside) and windows as much as possible when cleaning (and throughout the day). Some experts even recommend sleeping with your windows open. Avoid to usage of fragrances and air fresheners, these products only mask odors and often contain harmful VOCs.

A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold

References

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
New York Times - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/health/soap-coronavirus-handwashing-germs.html>
List N - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
Huffington Post - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cleaning-home-coronavirus-indoor-air_1_5e85f6f5c5b60bbd73508697

Covid-19 Emergency Prepared-

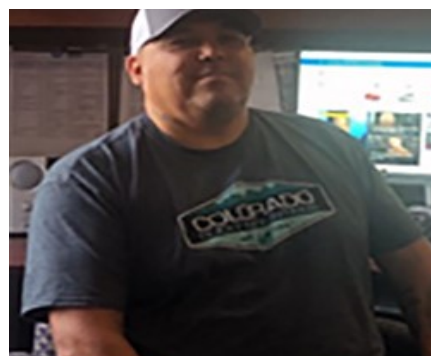


Kickapoo Emergency Management Team

By Craig Wahwahsuck

During this Covid-19 pandemic the tribe has create Emergency Management team. They meet daily to keep up with the latest information and how that info may affect our community. The meeting take place on the Zoom app, practicing social distancing. The team is made up of Tribal Council members, Tribal Fire and Police dept, EPA dept, Casino mgt, Health Clinic, Tribal attorney. Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas recognizes the impact of

COVID-19 on tribal member and community member, employees and workers alike. We are here to assist as we tackle this challenge together.



Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for COVID-19

Be prepared:

Stay informed about the local COVID-19 situation. Know where to turn for reliable, up-to-date information in your local community. Monitor the CDC COVID-19 [website](#) and your state and local health department [websitesexternal icon](#) for the latest information.

- **Develop, or review, your facility's emergency plan.** A COVID-19 outbreak in your community could lead to staff absenteeism. Prepare alternative staffing plans to ensure as many of your facility's staff are available as possible.
- **Establish relationships with key healthcare and public health partners in your community.** Make sure you know about healthcare and public health emergency planning and response activities in your community. Learn about plans to manage patients, accept transfers, and share supplies. Review any memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with affiliates, your healthcare coalition, and other partners to provide support or assistance during [emergencies](#).

Create an emergency contact list. Develop and continuously update emergency contact lists for key partners and ensure the lists are accessible in key locations in your facility. For example, know how to reach your local or state health department in an emergency.

COVID-19
Resources

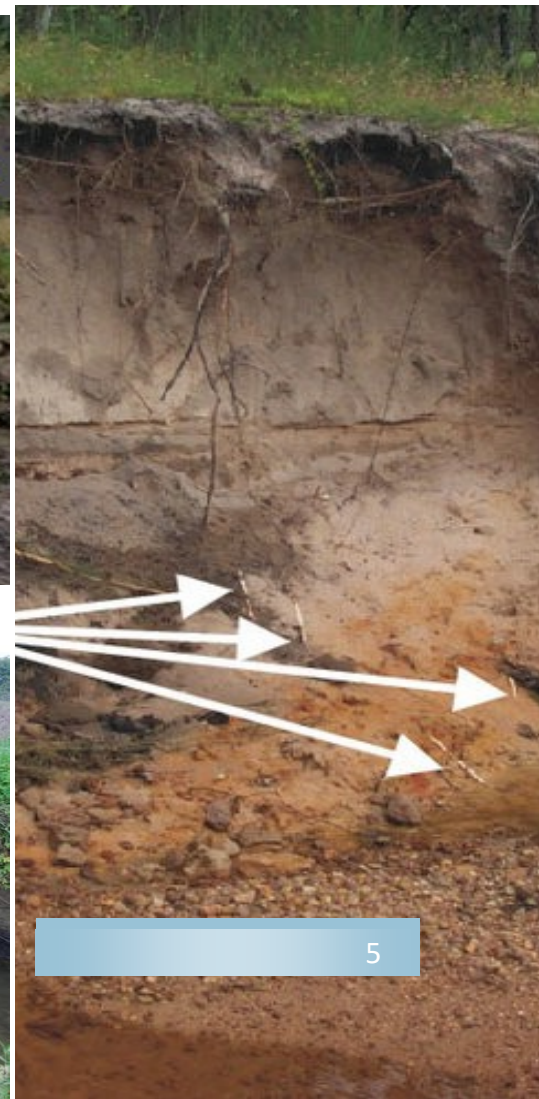
NPS study underway at the Kickapoo Reservation

By David Hebert

The Delaware River and the K20 bridge that crosses over it are important to the Kickapoo Tribe and recently part of its streambank was armored with riprap. David Hebert is hoping to unveil some of the benefits and impacts that this type of revetment has on various factors including water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Abstracts will be submitted to upcoming conferences in an effort to grow our knowledge base and invite more expertise to the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. The image shows an example of a nonpoint source (NPS) study underway at the Kickapoo reservation to measure the effect that riprap has on streambank erosion. Look for the first update on this project next spring.



Bank Erosion Pins Images





Community Garden and Green House Updates

By Dusty Brown

This year at the Community garden things are still moving along. Planting season is upon us and we have been starting seeds and preparing the garden area to put some plants in the ground. With the global pandemic COVID 19 keeping us apart, and the kids home, now is a wonderful time to start a family garden. Teaching your children how to grow their own food and preserve it for later is fun and extremely rewarding. Gardening not only provides food for your family but also helps the environment. Not having to drive to the store for all your produce and no plastic and Styrofoam packaging saves gas, money and removes waste from landfills.

As for the Greenhouse we are going to get it up and operational as soon as we can. We have the new cover and side skirts ready to install. Then we need to install more outlets, the fans in the rear building, and get the heater operational. We do have 2 water tanks for the greenhouse, but I have been going over options with the Water Dept. to try and figure out running a dedicated water line to the greenhouse.

I would also like to eventually build raised beds at the garden to make it easier for the elders and those with disabilities to gather their own fruits and veggies. Staying active is important for seniors and gardening is a great way to stay healthy. I would also like to figure out a way to build or buy raised garden beds for the community to take home.

I am looking for any input from the community and any help you can provide. This is your garden. I am just the guy taking care of it. You can find us on Facebook feel free to join our group Kickapoo Community Garden. You can email me at kickapoogarden@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and remember to stay safe out there. If you are a senior or otherwise immunocompromised please contact me and I will figure out a way to help you with a garden and or receiving fresh fruits and veggies.

When in doubt, don't throw it out!

By: Jessica Raley and Sonny Fee



What happens when you throw something away? Out of sight, out of mind...right? Wrong! When we dispose of anything, even simple household materials like mail, plastic cups, books, batteries or even tires they cause a huge impact on our environment. These seemingly small impacts can create air and water pollution. Instead, we should recycle to help our environment and ourselves! Recycling is the process of taking unwanted items and turning them into something usable.

With this in mind, our Solid Waste Program Manager, Sonny Fee, and I decided to recycle old automobile tires. Since tires can retain heat, stacks of unrecycled tires can create tire fires. These fires are nearly impossible to extinguish and can burn for months, while releasing toxic smoke into the environment for you and I to breathe.

Sonny's idea was to create tire flower baskets for our environmental office and the local Head Start. He collected old, donated tires around the tribe for our project. We used environmentally friendly spray paint to decorate the tires. We spent the next few days coating the tires in paint, adding stripes and designs too! Next, we drilled holes in the bottom of the tires to act as drainage holes for the flowers. All that's left to do is to plant beautiful flowers and watch them grow!

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